GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2841
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
HEMOTRON
RAM SAGAR

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether `Hemotron` technique is cheaper and safer than Engriography used for heart patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this technique is available in all the Government hospitals in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to make this technique available in the Government hospitals?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a)&(b) Imatron (Election Beam CT Scanner) is a device to detect calcium deposits in the coronary arteries, thereby indirectly picking up evidence of coronary artery disease. The presence of calcium in coronary arteries gives an indication that there is a 25% higher chance of developing blockages in the vessels. Hence this co-relation is not adequate for any diagnostic and therapeutic relevance. Angiography is a direct technique of imaging the coronary arteries and is a Gold Standard for detecting blockages in vessels.Imatron (EBCT) is a very expensive device with low yield.

(c)&(d) Imatron is still an experimental technique. More Scientific evidence is required before Imatron is considered for clinical application. This technique is not available in any Central Government Hospital and there is no proposal to introduce this technique in these hospitals at present.